



OMAHA CITY COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MECA Board Solution and the Clarification of Eligibility Terms

City Councilmembers and Jamie Gutierrez determined today that due to the recent confusion over eligibility rules and the lack of consensus on a resolution to the matter, that she will step aside in order to allow unity of purpose between the City Council, Mayor and MECA going forward.

While the majority of the City Council stands by its unanimous appointment of Gutierrez earlier this year and continues to believe she is a capable and experienced board member with deep ties to Omaha, it believes we need to keep MECA focused on managing the financial well-being of our public facilities.

City Councilmembers also look forward to working with the Mayor, MECA and other parties to the original agreements to address and correct all ambiguities in terminology so we don't have future questions surrounding the appointment of otherwise qualified and desirable candidates such as David Sokol and Jamie Gutierrez, and believe it's regrettable that the issue became so highly politicized in recent weeks.

Once Gutierrez has officially stepped aside, the City Council will move forward in an expedient fashion to fill the vacant seat on the MECA board that results from this action. The hope of many on the City Council is that Gutierrez will consider serving on the MECA board again in the future should she meet this new, clearly defined standard once it is established.

We are fortunate to have civic-minded business leaders like Gutierrez in our community. And as a community, we need to be able to rise above these situations working together with leadership, consensus, and positive outcomes.

For additional information, please contact:

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